

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1531–S1609

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2111–2129, S.J. Res. 28, and S. Con. Res. 91–92. **Pages S1586–87**

Measures Reported:

S. 930, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a program to provide assistance to enhance the ability of first responders to prepare for and respond to all hazards, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–227) **Page S1586**

Measures Passed:

Permitting the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 357, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height. **Page S1607**

Congratulating Focus: Hope: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 92, congratulating and saluting Focus: Hope on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and for the United States. **Pages S1607–08**

Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others. **Pages S1532–82**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 16), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1538**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1805), at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2004, with certain amendments to be proposed thereto; further,

that at 9:35 a.m., on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, the pending amendments be withdrawn, with certain exceptions, with certain additional amendment to be proposed, and that the time prior to 11:35 a.m. that day be equally divided for debate on all amendments concurrently; that no second degree amendments be in order; that at 11:35 a.m., Senate vote on Feinstein Amendment, followed by a vote on Reed Amendment, to be followed by a vote on Campbell Amendment, to be followed by a vote on Kennedy Amendment, to be followed by a vote on the D.C. ban amendment; further that following the disposition of the aforementioned amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on final passage of the bill. **Page S1609**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Gary J. Schmitt, of Washington, D.C., vice Michael A. Ledeen of Maryland. **Page S1606**

Commission on Systemic Interoperability: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 108–173, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Systemic Interoperability: Herbert Pardes, M.D., of New York. **Pages S1606–07**

Messages From the House: **Page S1584**

Measures Referred: **Page S1584**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S1584**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1584–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1587–88**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1588–S1600

Additional Statements: Pages S1583–84
Amendments Submitted: Page S1600
Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S1601
Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S1601–02
Privilege of the Floor: Page S1602
Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—16) Page S1538

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 11:09 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1609.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the government of the District of Columbia, after receiving testimony from Rufus G. King III, Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge, D.C. Court of Appeals and Chair, Joint Committee on Judicial Administration; and Frederick Lindstrom, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, Craig W. Floyd, National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, and Patricia Gallagher, National Capital Planning Commission, all of Washington, D.C.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine policies and programs for preventing and responding to incidents of sexual assault in the armed services, after receiving testimony from David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; General George W. Casey, Jr., USA, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and Terri J. Rau, Head, Policy and Prevention Section, Counseling, Advocacy and Prevention Branch, Navy Personnel Command, Bureau of Naval Personnel, both of the United States Navy; General William L. Nyland, USMC, Assistant Commandant, United States Marine Corps; General T. Michael Moseley, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; Susan H. Mather, Chief Officer, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs; Christine Han-

sen, The Miles Foundation, Newtown, Connecticut; and Deborah D. Tucker, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Austin, Texas.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, Office of Future Liabilities, and Office of Legacy Management, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005, after receiving testimony from Jessie H. Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environment Management, and Michael W. Owen, Director, Office of Legacy Management, both of the Department of Energy.

MUTUAL FUND INDUSTRY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current investigations and regulatory actions regarding the mutual fund industry, focusing on understanding the fund industry from the investor's perspective, including the role of State Treasurers, financial literacy Programs, management fee disclosure, and the recent scandals in the industry, after receiving testimony from Gary Gensler, Brooklandville, Maryland, former Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance; Tim Berry, Indiana State Treasurer, Indianapolis, on behalf of the National Association of State Treasurers; James S. Riepe, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland; Don Phillips, Morningstar, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; and James K. Glassman, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.

HOUSING GSEs

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposals for improving the regulation of the housing government sponsored enterprises (GSEs), after receiving testimony from Franklin D. Raines, Fannie Mae, Washington, D.C.; Richard F. Syron, Freddie Mac, McLean, Virginia; and Norman B. Rice, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, Seattle, Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEAFOOD PROCESSOR QUOTAS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the economic implications of seafood processor quotas, focusing on the Alaska crab rationalization plan developed by North Pacific Fishery Management Council, including effects on competition of the rationalization plan and antitrust issues associated with the plan's price arbitration system, after receiving testimony from J. Bruce McDonald, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; Anu K. Mittal, Director, National Resources and Environment, and Keith Oleson, Assistant Director, both of the General Accounting Office; Robert Halvorsen, University of Washington, and Joseph T. Plesha, Trident Seafoods Corporation, both of Seattle; Scott C. Matulich, Washington State University, Pullman; Richard D. Young, Crescent City, California, on behalf of the Fishermen's Marketing Association; and Richard Powell, Kodiak, Alaska.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with Annexes, done at Montego Bay, December 10, 1982 (the "Convention"), and the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, with Annex, adopted at New York, July 28, 1994 (the "Agreement"), and signed by the United States, subject to ratification, on July 29, 1994 (Treaty Doc. 103-39).

TAX TREATIES

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington on November 6, 2003, together with a Protocol and an exchange of notes (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 108-14), and the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Colombo on March 14, 1985, together with an exchange of notes, signed at Washington on September 20, 2002 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 108-9), focusing on a zero-rate dividend provision, anti-conduit rules, insurance excise tax, restructured financial institutions, and the U.S. operating subsidiary, after receiving testimony from Barbara M. Angus, Inter-

national Tax Counsel, Department of the Treasury; George Yin, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; William A. Reinsch, National Foreign Trade Council, and James W. Fatherree, U.S.-Japan Business Council, both of Washington, D.C.

USAID CONTRACTING POLICIES

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion concluded a hearing to examine the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) contracting policies, focusing on programs in Afghanistan and Iraq, after receiving testimony from Everett L. Mosley, Inspector General, and Tim Beans, Director, Office of Procurement, both of the United States Agency for International Development; Frederick D. Barton, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Allan V. Burman, Jefferson Solutions, and Marcus L. Stevenson, The Urban Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

INDIAN PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2005 for Indian Programs, after receiving testimony from Ross Swimmer, Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior; Gary J. Hartz, Acting Director, Office of Public Health, Indian Health Service, and Douglas Black, Director, Office of Tribal Programs, Indian Health Service, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Victoria Vasques, Deputy Under Secretary, and Director, Office of Indian Education, and Lonna Jones, Acting Director, Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Analysis Division, Budget Service, both of the Department of Education; Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public and Indian Housing; David Garman, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Tracy Henke, Deputy Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Roger T. Benitez, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Feinstein, testified and answered questions in his own behalf. Testimony was also received from Marilyn L. Huff, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California; and Thomas Z. Hayward, Jr., Chicago, Illinois, and Richard M. Macias, Los Angeles, California, both on behalf of the Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary, American Bar Association.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 3826–3844; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 367–370, and H. Res. 534, 535, and 537, were introduced.

Pages H632–33

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H633

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 536, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–428).

Pages H631–32

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaHood to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

Page H577

GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003: The House passed H.R. 2751, to provide new human capital flexibilities with respect to the GAO, by a yeas and nays vote of 382 yeas to 43 nays, Roll No. 28.

Pages H579–83, H595

Pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement of Tuesday, February 24, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill was considered as adopted.

Page H583

The bill was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached on Tuesday, February 24.

Page H579

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Recognizing and honoring the life of Raul Julia: H. Con. Res. 287, recognizing and honoring the life of the late Raul Julia, his dedication to ending world hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino community and the performing arts by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas and nays vote of 422 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 29;

Pages H584–86, H596

Barber Conable Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3690, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 West Main Street in Batavia, New York, as the “Barber Conable Post Office Building”.

Pages H586–87

Recess: The House recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 2:19 p.m.

Page H587

Consideration of Unborn Victims of Violence Act: The House agreed to H. Res. 529, the rule that is providing for consideration of H.R. 1997, to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uni-

form Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, by a voice vote.

Pages H587–95

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas and nays votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls.

Pages H595, H596

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies began fiscal year 2005 appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from the following officials of USDA: Ann M. Veneman, Secretary; James R. Mosley, Deputy Secretary; Keith Collins, Chief Economist; and Stephen B. Dewhurst, Budget Officer.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to receive a briefing on the CIA. Testimony was heard from George J. Tenet, Director, CIA.

INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies began fiscal year 2005 appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Gale A. Norton, Secretary; P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget; and John D. Trezise, Director, Budget.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies hearing on SSA. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the SSA: Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner; and James G. Huse, Jr., Inspector General.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting: Robert Coonrod, President and CEO; Pat Mitchell, President and CEO, Public

Broadcasting Service; and Kevin Close, President and CEO, National Public Broadcasting.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction held a hearing on the following: the Quality of Life; and on Quality of Life in the Military with Spouses. Testimony was heard from Sgt. Major Kenneth O. Preston, USA; Master Chief Petty Officer Terry D. Scott, USN; Sgt. Major John L. Estrada, USMC; and Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray, USAF.

VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies on the following: the Office of Science and Technology Policy; on Arlington Cemetery; on Consumer Product Commission; and on the Council on Environmental Quality. Testimony was heard from John H. Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and President's Science Advisor; John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of the Army; Hal Stratton, Chairman; Thomas H. Moore and Mary Sheila Gall, both Commissioners, Consumer Product Safety Commission; and James Laurence Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.

RESOLUTION REGARDING VALERIE PLAME; NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST— DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Committee on Armed Services: Ordered reported adversely H. Res. 499, Requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President and those officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame.

The Committee also held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National; Defense Authorization budget request of the Department of the Army. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary; and Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, USA, Chief of Staff.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—SPACE PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request: Status of the Space Programs. Testimony was heard

from Peter B. Teets, Under Secretary, Department of the Air Force.

DOD FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Total Force held a hearing on the Department of Defense force health protection and surveillance efforts for service members deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; Lt. Gen. James J. Peake, M.D., USA., The Surgeon General, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Medical Command; Sgt. Major Kenneth O. Preston, Sgt. Major, USA; and CPL Victor Thibeault, U.S. Army, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York; the following officials of the Department of Veterans' Affairs: Michael J. Kussman, M.D., Deputy Chief, Patient Care Officer, Veterans Health Administration; Susan H. Mather, M.D., Chief Officer, Public Health and Environmental Hazards; and Laurent S. Lehmann, M.D., Chief, Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group; and public witnesses.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND CURRENT FISCAL ISSUES

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on The Economic Outlook and Current Fiscal Issues. Testimony was heard from Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.

STRENGTHENING PENSION SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing entitled "Strengthening Pension Security for All Americans: Are Workers Prepared for a Safe and Secure Retirement?" Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE REFORM ACT; CONSUMER ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection approved for full Committee action the following: the United States Olympic Committee Reform Act; and the Consumer Access to Information Act of 2004.

SECURITIES FRAUD DETERRENCE AND INVESTOR RESTITUTION ACT; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 2179, Securities Fraud Deterrence and Investor Restitution Act of 2003.

The Committee approved the following: as amended, “Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2005;” and other pending Committee business.

IMPROVE REGULATORY ACCOUNTING: COSTS, BENEFITS, AND IMPACTS OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “How to Improve Regulatory Accounting: Costs, Benefits, and Impacts of Federal Regulations—Part II.” Testimony was heard from John D. Graham, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, SBA; and public witnesses.

U.S. PACIFIC ISLAND TERRITORIES— HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness held a hearing on “Investigation Into Health Care Disparities in the United States Pacific Island Territories.” Testimony was heard from David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; Nathan Stinson, Jr., M.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Felix Camacho, Governor, Territory of Guam; Juan Babauta, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Togiola Tulafono, Governor, American Samoa; and Jefferson Benjamin, M.D., Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Education, and Social Affairs, Federated States of Micronesia.

RESOLUTION REGARDING VALERIE PLAME; MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported the following measures: H. Res. 499, adversely, Requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President and those officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame; and H.R. 3818, amended, The Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004.

The Committee favorably considered the following measures and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that they be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H.R. 3782, Counter-Terrorist and Narcoterrorist Rewards Program Act; H.R. 854, amended, Belarus Democracy Act of 2003; H. Res. 530, Urging passage of a resolution addressing human

rights abuses in People’s Republic of China at the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and calling upon the Government of People’s Republic of China to respect and protect human rights; H. Con. Res. 15, Commending India on its celebration of Republic Day; H. Res. 526, Expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the devastating earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2003 in Bam, Iran; and H. Con. Res. 364, To recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security.

RESOLUTION REGARDING VALERIE PLAME

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported adversely H. Res. 499, Requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President and those officials relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame.

OVERSIGHT—IMMIGRATION FUNDING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims held an oversight hearing entitled “Funding for Immigration in the President’s 2005 Budget.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Michael Dougherty, Director, Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Eduardo Aguirre, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Seth Stodder, Counselor and Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner Robert C. Bonner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and Daniel Smith, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Consular Affairs, Department of State.

OVERSIGHT—EXAMINE POTENTIAL FOR A DELEGATE FROM NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Committee on Resources: Held an oversight hearing on An Examination of the Potential for a Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Testimony was heard from David Cohen, Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; the following officials of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Juan N. Babauta, Governor; Pete A. Tenorio, Resident Representative; and Joaquin G. Adriano, Senate President; and a public witness.

OVERSIGHT—BUDGETS—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held an oversight hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 Budgets for the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Geological Survey and Power Marketing Administrations. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: John Keys III, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; and Robert M. Hirsch, Associate Director, Water, U.S. Geological Survey; and the following officials of the Department of Energy: Michael S. HacsKaylo, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration; Stephen J. Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; Michael A. Deihl, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration; and Charles A. Borchardt, Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE CONCERNING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of February 26, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of H.R. 3783, Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, or any amendment thereto.

CONFLICT BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SECURITY IN VISA POLICY

Committee on Science: Held a hearing on The Conflict Between Science and Security in Visa Policy: Status and Next Steps. Testimony was heard from Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary, Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security; Janice Jacobs, Assistant Secretary, Office of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Jess Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO; and Robert Garrity, Jr., Deputy Assistant Director, Record/Information Administration, FBI, Department of Justice.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Small Business: Approved Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2005 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 2523, to designate the United States courthouse located at 125 Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the "Tomochichi United States Courthouse;" H.R. 2538, to designate the United States courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., United States Courthouse;" H.R. 3147, amended, to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the "James V. Hansen Federal Building;" and H.R. 3713, To designate the Federal building located at 250 West Cherry Street in Carbondale, Illinois the "Senator Paul Simon Federal Building."

The Committee also approved the following: Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2005 for submission to the Committee on the Budget; U.S. Army Corps Survey Resolutions; and GSA Fiscal Year 2004 Leasing Resolutions.

IC ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES AND INFORMATION SHARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security met in executive session to hold a hearing on IC Analytical Capabilities and Information Sharing. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

HOMELAND SECURITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUDGET

Select Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science and Research Development held a hearing entitled "Homeland Security Science and Technology Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2005." Testimony was heard from Charles McQueary, Under Secretary, Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

Joint Meetings

HEALTH CARE

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the performance and potential of consumer driven health care, focusing on new health savings account options, employee choice, and health insurance risks, after receiving testimony from Arnold Milstein, Pacific Business Group on Health, San Francisco, California, on behalf of Mercer Human Resource Consulting; John M. Bertko, Humana, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky; Howard Leach, Logan Aluminum, Inc., Russellville, Kentucky; and Gail Shearer, Consumers Union, Washington, D.C.

HOMELAND SECURITY: NEW HUMAN RESOURCES SYSTEM

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Reorganization to examine the new personnel system of the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Admiral James M. Loy, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; Kay Coles James, Director, Office of Personnel Management; David M. Walker, Comptroller General, General Accounting Office; and John Gage, American Federation of Government Employees, Colleen M. Kelley, National Treasury Employees Union, and Mike Randall, National Association of Agriculture Employees, all of Washington, D.C.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D 98)

S. 610, to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Signed on February 24, 2004. (Public Law 108–201).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for emergency preparedness and response budget, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alphonso R. Jackson, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Rhonda Keenum, of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Services, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Full Committee, to continue hearings to examine current investigations and regulatory actions regarding the

mutual fund industry, focusing on fund operations and governance, 2 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2005, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Susan Johnson Grant, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine public diplomacy and international free press, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine next steps in U.S. relations regarding Libya, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine ensuring quality and accountability regarding higher education accreditation, 2 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Henry W. Saad, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, William James Haynes II, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Raymond W. Gruender, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Franklin S. Van Antwerpen, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Judith C. Herrera, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, F. Dennis Saylor IV, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Sandra L. Townes, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Louis Guirola, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, Virginia E. Hopkins, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Kenneth M. Karas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Ricardo S. Martinez, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Gene E. K. Pratter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Neil Vincent Wake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Michele M. Leonhart, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement, Domingo S. Herraiz, of Ohio, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and LaFayette Collins, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Texas all of the Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, on Natural Resources and Environment, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Commerce, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Worker Protection Agencies, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies, on U.S. Postal Service, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request for the Department of the Air Force, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Military Construction Budget Request for the Programs of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and the Reserve Components of the Department of the Air Force, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Department of Defense Transformation, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2005, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, to continue hearings on H.R. 3717, Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following: Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2005 for submission to the Committee on the Budget; H.R. 3733, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Huston Street in Altamont, Kansas, as the "Myron C. George Post Office;" H.R. 3797, 2004 District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act; H.J. Res. 87, Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth; H. Con. Res. 328, Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the designation of a National Military Appreciation Month; H. Res. 433, Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferre; and H. Res. 475, Congratulating the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

followed by a hearing entitled "Will 'Network' Work? A Review of Whether a Centralized Government Telecom Plan Jibes with an Ever-Evolving Market," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled "Afghanistan: Law Enforcement Interdiction Efforts in Transshipment Countries to Stem the Flow of Heroin," 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, hearing on U.S. Foreign Assistance After September 11th: Major Changes, Competing Purposes and Different Standards—Is There an Overall Strategy? 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 1856, Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Amendments Act of 2003, 2:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, oversight hearing to examine the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget for the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management and ongoing efforts to reduce their maintenance backlogs, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs, hearing entitled "Union Salting of Small Business Worksites," 10:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing on Agency Budgets and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2005, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on the Social Security Service Delivery Plan for 2005, 10 a.m., B-2318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security, executive, briefing on Global Intelligence Update, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security, executive, hearing on IC Language Capabilities, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, February 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will consider S. 1805, Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 1997, Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003 (modified closed rule, two hours of general debate).

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